

Sinn Fein Chiefs Continue Fight for Irish Liberty

Members of Order, Released from Jail, Admit That Germany Is Their Friend; American Officers Are Hissed.

By JOHN L. HALDERSON.
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Dublin, Aug. 12.—After as close an investigation as circumstances permitted into the present organization and activities of the Sinn Fein or republican party in Ireland, I have been struck by two facts of interest.

1. By the implied admission of the leaders of Sinn Fein, Arthur Griffith and Eamonn de Valera, the organization remains actively anti-British and is as close touch and co-operation with Germany as possible.

2. By the admission of the same two men who have just been released from prison, Sinn Fein still receives money from Irish-Americans in the United States.

Griffith, the founder of Sinn Fein, its executive head prior to the Easter Week revolt, and De Valera, the young hero whose sensational victory at the East Clare election has made him the idol of half Ireland and the real leader of Sinn Fein, today permitted me to interview them. To both I put the same question:

"Am I then justified in assuming that American money which your organization receives is being used to plot against Great Britain, in conjunction with the enemies of Great Britain and of the United States?"

Griffith and De Valera both replied by repudiating the suggestion, which both seemed to resent, that they are pro-German. De Valera said, "England is in occupation of our country. Until she removes her troops from Ireland and England are in a state of war. While we are in a state of war, England's enemies must be Ireland's friends."

Griffith was more cautious. "Our appeal is to the peace conference," he said. "The question of the use of force against the enemy is purely one of expediency." He declined to discuss his relations, if any, with Germany, but said, like De Valera, "Germany is the enemy of England, and England is my enemy. You may draw your own conclusions."

"How do you get money from America?" I asked De Valera. "We have our ways," he answered evasively.

A stranger has only to walk the streets of Dublin half an hour to learn what an extraordinary hold the Sinn Fein propaganda has upon the mass of the population. The Nationalist party, one is told by members of all factions, is practically dead. Joseph Devlin, the Ulster Nationalist leader, told me that if an election were held tomorrow the Sinn Fein would win half the seats.

The Sinn Fein leaders themselves claim they would win every Nationalist seat in Ireland away from the Redmondites and gain several constituencies now Unionist. Meanwhile, the convention, which is repudiated by Sinn Fein, is in session, and Orangemen and Nationalists are coming together to meet the common menace of anarchy and civil war which they believe the Sinn Fein program holds in store for the country if the republican party secures control.

It seems strange to hear counsels of moderation and appeals for law and order from the Ulster and Na-

tionalist factions which three years ago were marching troops about and threatening war to the knife. But there was a good deal of bluff in the Carson military preparations, and in the counter preparations of the Boyab, and moderate Irishmen are aware that there is no bluff about Sinn Fein. The present leaders have "gone up on the roof," as they say in Dublin, against the whole might of the British Empire, and they say with engaging frankness that, if they cannot obtain complete independence in any other way, they intend to do so again.

Since the suppression of the Dublin revolt, which was planned to extend all over the country, but went off at half-cock, it seems probable from all I can learn that arms have been smuggled to the Sinn Feiners, from Germany, by means of cargo submarines, which put in lonely bays on the almost deserted West coast. I have been assured by prominent members of the convention that they know of German arms imported in this manner. The Sinn Fein leaders themselves, with all their remarkable willingness to discuss their plans and position, refused to tell me whether Hindenburg is helping them out with rifles or machine guns, hand grenades, flame-throwers, or cylinders of poison gas weapons all of which figure in Dublin rumor.

Ireland is under martial law. There is something comic in the Sinn Fein complaints of militarism and oppression against the British method of handling the situation here. I discussed the situation briefly with Gen. Sir Bryan Mahon, commander-in-chief of the considerable British forces in Ireland, but am not at liberty to quote him. Two illustrations will show to what extremes the authorities are going to their desire not to provoke the Sinn Feiners.

Through the first two days of the convention, no British flag was flying in Central Dublin. But a block away from the convention hall, some Irish Barbara Freitche had hung to the breeze a republican flag of red, green and white. It fluttered over the heads of the delegates as they walked to their deliberations. No attempt was made to remove it.

Sinn Fein Bank.
Over the front of the building occupied, since his release from his life sentence for treason, by Arthur Griffith at 6 Harcourt street, are stretched in large brass letters the words, "Sinn Fein Bank," and Mr. Griffith and his friends there edit and publish the official organ of Sinn Fein, now called "Nationality," which continues its propaganda with a certain regard for the censorship, but no concealment of its sentiments and aims.

Only one grievance against the martial law now enforced in Ireland can be expressed against the Castle authorities today that was not available before the Dublin revolt. The Sinn Fein soldiers are no longer allowed to drill in the streets, dig trenches in the city parks, or rehearse undisturbed their planned attacks on Dublin Castle and other strategic points, as they did in the early months of 1916.

The facts about Sinn Fein appear to be that it is led by the survivors of the leaders of the Easter week re-

bellion, that it is spreading its organization all over Southern Ireland and gaining support at an alarming rate, that its principal doctrine is the use of force to obtain national independence, and that it repudiates anything short of a complete separation from the British Empire.

It was to obtain from the leaders some explanation of the policy and program of Sinn Fein that I went to them. Arthur Griffith, I found in his office on the second floor of the Sinn Fein bank building. It has not been many days since he was released from his life sentence for treason; it is said that he owes his life to the fact that at the last moment he tried to prevent the rebellion. He talked to me with cold passion about England, quoting broken agreements and attacking over past centuries. "Do you not," I asked, "make any distinction between the Tory and Liberal parties in England, or do you not admit that English feelings towards Ireland have changed in modern times?"

"No," he said. "England is always the same. Tory or Liberal, Labor or Pacifist, they are all alike. We trust none of them. When England is weak, she offers us concessions. Hence this convention. When England is strong, she takes back what she gave us when she was weak. That is the history of Ireland."

"What is the Sinn Fein political program?" I asked Mr. Griffith.

Have No Program.
"Our strength is that we have no program," he answered. "It is wrong to speak of an Irish republic. Sinn Fein is not committed to a republic. Some of us would prefer an Irish monarchy. We represent all shades of political theory. Sinn Fein has no connection with any class, or with the Catholic Church. Our one aim is to get the enemy, the army of occupation, out of Ireland. When that is done, Sinn Fein will dissolve, political parties will come into existence, and we can lead our normal life as a nation."

"How do you reconcile your present political campaign, your fight for seats in the English Parliament, with your old doctrine of boycotting the English rule by not recognizing it?" I asked.

"The Sinn Fein executive," Mr. Griffith said, "is an elected body. It could not be. We must prove to Ireland and to the world that we have the support of the people of Ireland. For that reason it is necessary to contest these seats and to win them. No Sinn Fein member, of course, will ever take his seat at Westminster."

"But there is another and more important reason why we must elect members of Parliament. They form the nucleus of the body that will take over the government of Ireland. From them will be chosen the delegates who at the peace conference will demand that the claims of Ireland be considered together with those of other small and weak nations. Our Sinn Fein members are the future rulers of Ireland, elected by the Irish people, who understand what they are doing, under the form and by the machinery kindly provided by the English government. When a Sinn Feiner contests a seat with a Nationalist, the issue is this: The Nationalist asks the people to send him to the British Parliament. We ask the people, by voting for our candidate, to pronounce for independence and withdraw themselves from English rule, electing instead a man who will represent them in the government of Ireland."

We discussed the future of an independent Ireland. Mr. Griffith contended that Germany and the United States would support an independent Ireland because "he who commands the sea power of the Atlantic," said the interest of Germany and America, Mr. Griffith was

merely contemptuous. He utterly refused to take it seriously. "It is not an Irish, but an English convention," he insisted. "How can it represent anything when everybody knows we have the mass of the people in nearly every constituency in Ireland?"

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Our discussion lasted an hour. I came away from the little cottage feeling that here is a man who will go far, if he lives. It is a big "if." The "compliment" Mr. Griffith appreciated I could apply with greater force to de Valera, whose magnetism, brilliance and intense sincerity seems to be combined with a complete lack of prudence and political calculation, qualities which he probably despises.

Unmistakably said to me, "has been so idolized in Ireland, and he is only just beginning his career; he has spoken in only a few constituencies. On the night of his election in East Clare, Dublin was the scene of the greatest political demonstration of modern times. The city went mad with joy. Those of us who have retained our reason remained at home and prayed that heaven would put common sense into the hearts of the people."

Among the Sinn Fein population the United States, until now extremely popular in Ireland, is regarded with mingled joy and anger. "England has dragged you in to pull out her chestnuts," was a remark addressed to me more than once. An incident that took place last week in the Hippodrome, the largest theater in Dublin, now used as a moving picture house, illustrates the Sinn Fein attitude.

The commander of an American destroyer, the Dublin, on leave with one of his officers, told me that he was in the Hippodrome when films of the West Point cadets drilling were shown. A considerable part of the audience hissed. A moment later renewed hissing greeted "God Save the King," played by the theater orchestra, but this was nothing to the storm of disapproval that followed when the hand switched to the "Star Spangled Banner," and the two officers, as American regulations demand, stood at attention. "I didn't know what to do," said the commander ruefully. "It was the first time I ever heard that tune hissed. We walked out."

It would be a mistake to exaggerate the significance of such an incident, which indicated not serious hostility towards America, but an annoyance at the war, and at any uniform, that is characteristic in Dublin today. The political temperature of the country is very high, perhaps higher than ever before. There are not wanting prophets who think that if the convention reaches an agreed solution the support of Sinn Fein will fall away, leaving Griffith and de Valera and their extremist followers isolated.

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stated, is to overthrow British naval supremacy.

"England Is Beaten."
The Sinn Fein leader hammered home his points with dogmatic insistence. He would not argue. His attitude expressed the characterization given him by George Moore, the Irish novelist, who wrote, "Arthur Griffith seems to me to be a ram. He is always butting." Finally I said, "But surely you will admit that for this dream of yours to be realized England must be completely defeated, that she would never abandon her sea power by setting Ireland free to ally herself with the enemies of England until she was crushed."

Mr. Griffith brought his fist down on the table. In tones of absolute finality, he said, "England is beaten. That we know here." The remark ended the interview, and I said as I went out, "I must pay you the compliment, Mr. Griffith, of remarking that I think the British made a great mistake not to shoot you." He smiled grimly and for the first time, said, "I thank you very much."

Eamonn de Valera I found in his little home, one of a typical row of workmen's cottages in Munster street. There could be no greater contrast than between this young firebrand and the sombre, elderly Griffith. One glimpse of de Valera and I understand how he has captured the imagination of the impressionable followers. He was born, as he told me later, in New York City 33 years ago, of a Spanish father and an Irish mother. At the age of two months he was brought to Ireland, and has lived here ever since. Before he became a revolutionist he taught mathematics. Tall and thin, with great round piercing eyes that shine with burning fire when he speaks of the "cause," his personal magnetism is that of a born leader. I had heard from loyal Irishmen of his deeds during the rebellion, how he had led the burning fire when he spoke of the "cause," his personal magnetism is that of a born leader. I had heard from loyal Irishmen of his deeds during the rebellion, how he had led the burning fire when he spoke of the "cause," his personal magnetism is that of a born leader.

After some verbal fencing, he consented to talk, and soon plunged into a brilliant and burning recital of the wrongs of Ireland, the hypocrisy of the future of a free Erin. I soon saw there is a strong touch of mystery about this young man, who cares nothing for the odds against him, and would prefer to fight with the certainty of defeat than not to fight at all. "Where but in Ireland," he said with fervor, "would you get 5,000 men without artillery taking to the roofs against 5,000 trained soldiers with thousands of cannon? Tell the Americans that while there are men in Ireland who will die rather than submit to tyranny, the struggle will go on. The odds do not matter. We are proud, as Irishmen, before the British courts martial, before the British jails. We could not look our women in the face before we struck for freedom."

Would Eliminate English.
Like Griffith, de Valera refused to descend to details about the Sinn Fein program. The one thing that matters, he feels, is to get rid of the English. "What about Ulster?" I asked. "The Ulstermen will come in," he said, "and make very little trouble. There will be no Ulster difficulty. Ulster will not fight."

"Do you not feel," I interjected during a particularly bitter denunciation of England, "that your release the other day was an act which proves that England is not so bloodthirsty as you say." "Fear!" de Valera cried. "They are afraid. That is why they let us go."

Regarding the prospects of the convention, de Valera, like Griffith, was merely contemptuous. He utterly refused to take it seriously. "It is not an Irish, but an English convention," he insisted. "How can it represent anything when everybody knows we have the mass of the people in nearly every constituency in Ireland?"

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pelled to defend themselves without much aid from the British and Belgians, and in consequence could not be very particular as to the physical fitness of their men. Tuberculosis is therefore rife among French soldiers, and although the authorities are doing their best to repair the results of the early neglect of careful examination, and are removing all tuberculous soldiers as quickly as possible, the problem of tuberculosis in that country is extremely serious. It has been announced recently that the Rockefeller Foundation, with the approval of the French government and in co-operation with the American Red Cross, is about to take steps with a view to curbing the spread of this disease in France. It is understood that the work will be carried on under the supervision of a French central committee and local committees which are being organized throughout provincial France. From all points of view the scheme of the Rockefeller Foundation to restrict the ravages of tuberculosis in France is most meritorious. Not only is it giving powerful aid to a brave ally, but it is helping to lessen a danger to which our own troops will be exposed when they reach French soil.—The Medical Record.

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TO SAVE WASTE TIN FOR RE-MANUFACTURE

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SOUNDS DOOM OF CATS.
Out in Los Angeles they are considering a proposition to defeat the high cost of living to a certain extent by conserving the grain and vegetable crop through the process of uncaring the country.

This is how the originator of the idea has figured it out: Cats eat most of the grain and vegetable crops, and insects eat grain and vegetables—so kill the cat and thus save the grain and vegetable that are eaten by the insects that are eaten by the birds that are killed by the cats. It's as simple as A, B, C.—Greenwich Graphic.

merely contemptuous. He utterly refused to take it seriously. "It is not an Irish, but an English convention," he insisted. "How can it represent anything when everybody knows we have the mass of the people in nearly every constituency in Ireland?"

"Why did you refuse to take part?" I asked. "We did not refuse," he said. "We offered to come in if the English would allow the Irish people to elect the delegates, would pledge themselves to abide by the decision of the convention, and would permit the convention to decide, if it wished, for independence."

Chamber of Commerce Members Assistent in National Movement.

A committee, composed of S. T. Cameron, chairman; H. K. Fulton, George Goler, M. B. Harlow, E. P. Hinzlton, Charles Hower, Samuel Kimberley, M. A. Lease, John H. Lorch and A. J. May has been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, to consider the conservation of tin to meet demand on supply.

It is proposed by the Department of Commerce to save the tin cans, boxes, etc., which have been allowed to go to waste, in much the same way that waste paper is being saved.

Mr. Sinclair also appointed a committee to investigate the merits of a movement proposed by the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers. This movement purposes to educate the people, and especially the farmers, as to the advantages of cold storage as an aid to the conservation of foods. The society also desires the co-operation of the cold storage plants with the farmers and the small gardeners, to the end that the latter may be able to store small quantities of produce.

The committee is composed of James P. Connel, chairman; Albert Schulteis, George P